

# Missouri Department of Natural Resources



## MINUTES

### Missouri Soil and Water Districts Commission

Department of Natural Resource Conference Center

1730 East Elm Street

Bennett Springs Conference Room

Jefferson City, MO

January 31, 2020

**COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:** Gary Vandiver, H. Ralph Gaw, Kenny Lovelace, Keith Stevens, and Jeff Lance. Not present: Tim Martin.

**EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS:** **CAROL S. COMER, DIRECTOR, DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES:** Kurt Boeckmann; **CHRIS CHINN, DIRECTOR, DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE:** Ken Henderson; **SARA PARKER PAULEY, DIRECTOR, DEPT. OF CONSERVATION:** Lisa Potter **DEAN CHRISTOPHER R. DAUBERT, UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI:** Rob Kallenbach

**ADVISORY MEMBERS PRESENT: SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM (SWCP):** Colleen Meredith; **NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS):** Grover DePriest; **MISSOURI ASSOCIATION OF SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS (MASWCD):** Ryan Britt; **ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE:** Ross Keeling

**SWCP STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jim Boschert, Bill Wilson, Jim Plassmeyer, Cody Tebbenkamp, Jake Wilson, Trish Rielly, and Tina Stockman

**OTHERS PRESENT: GASCONADE COUNTY SWCD:** Diana Mayfield; **JEFFERSON COUNTY SWCD:** Gary Bonacker; **MO FARM BUREAU:** Kelly Smith; **USDA NRCS:** Karen Brinkman; **MO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES:** Angela Falls, Kyra Moore, Tisha Holden, and Van Beydler

#### A. CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Vandiver called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

#### B. MINUTES FROM THE DECEMBER 2, 2019 MEETING

A motion was made by Commissioner Jeff Lance to approve the December 2, 2019 minutes. Commissioner Ralph Gaw seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

Commissioner Gary Vandiver congratulated Commissioner Keith Stevens on being confirmed by the Senate this week.

## C. REPORTS AND UPDATES

### 1. Department of Natural Resources

Mr. Kurt Boeckmann reported that it is election time for the Commission Chair and Vice-Chair. This is done annually at the first meeting of the year. He opened the floor to take nominations for Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Commission. Commissioner Kenny Lovelace made a motion that we retain the Chairman and Vice Chairman of this Commission as it is with Commissioner Vandiver as Chair and Commissioner Gaw as Vice-Chair. Commissioner Keith Stevens seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor. Mr. Boeckmann congratulated the Commissioners and turned the floor back over to Chair Vandiver who thanked everyone for their efforts and their service on the Commission and for their support of Commissioner Gaw and himself in their positions for the past several years.

Director Carol Comer is back in the office; she has been out on medical leave, undergoing some treatments. She is working reduced hours, but is back in the office trying to make a full-time come back. He recognized Kyra Moore who is in the attendance. She is Deputy Director of the Division of Environmental Quality.

Mr. Boeckmann reported that the Flood Recovery Advisory Work Group, also known as the FRAWG submitted an interim report to Governor Parson's Office with some recommendations at the end of the calendar year. Governor Parson continues to meet with neighboring states, primarily on Missouri River and flooding issues. The Governors of Iowa, Kansas and Nebraska and Governor Parson have signed a Memorandum of Agreement that lays out a continued process of cooperation and joint action for working with the Army Corps of Engineers and several of the other partners, to reduce the flooding impacts and trying to improve things as we go along for both mid-term and long-term solutions. One of those recommendations from the FRAWG report that went to the Governor, pertains to the Soil and Water Conservation Program, targeting conservation practices in areas to improve drought resiliency and decrease flooding risks. The Department wants the Commission to be aware of that recommendation.

Another thing that may be helpful with flooding is that the Department will be implementing a soil moisture monitoring network which will be funded mainly through the Water Resources Center. The Department already has a groundwater monitoring network but the soil moisture monitoring network will track moisture and help determine when drought and/or flood conditions are quickly approaching. The Department will be working with the Iowa Flood Center who has implemented something like this; it has really helped them in both types of disasters.

Mr. Boeckmann also reported that the Department's Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) Targeted Conservation Watershed Project funded over the past five years, has been extended for an additional five years. The edge-of-field monitoring project with the Missouri Corn Merchandising Council funded through the 319 Program was a result of the RCPP project. The RCPP proposal extension has been submitted and is approved, but the Department has to go through the agreement process with NRCS in the next few months. This will help target conservation and put those dollars in places where the most effective practices are available. The Department looks forward to starting the agreement process with NRCS.

The State Water Plan is open for comments through February 28, 2020. You can view the State Water Plan on the Department's website which is out in draft format. On January 23, 2020, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of the Army finalized the Navigable Waters Protection Rule to define "waters of the United States" (WOTUS). This replaces the original WOTUS Rule. This new rule basically streamlines the definition of waters of the U.S. to include what jurisdictional waters are.

**2. Soil and Water Conservation Program Director's Comments**

Ms. Meredith thanked everyone for attending and congratulated Commissioner's Vandiver and Gaw for being reelected as Chair and Vice-Chair of the Commission and reviewed the following updates.

The department has preparing the budget for the legislative session. The SWCP and 319 budgets have no significant changes this year, so no issues are anticipated. As of Tuesday afternoon, approximately 60% of boards signed the Memorandum of Agreements that the Commission, Department, and NRCS signed at the December Commission meeting. The target date for returning those is today. Several board meetings were cancelled due to weather, so districts are encouraged to have those signed as soon as they can. Coordinators have been to 74 board meetings so far to discuss landowner cost-share privacy issues and have the rest scheduled in February. Updates to Cost-Share Handbook and Districts Operations Manuals will be out soon.

There are several staffing changes in the program. A new coordinator, Stacy Breesawitz, will start February 3, 2020. He earned his B.S. degree from the University of Nebraska in Applied Science and is currently obtaining his M.S. degree in Agronomy focused on crop physiology and production specialization. He will be located in the Southwest Regional Office with Josh Poyner and is supervised by Jim Plassmeyer. Amanda Wolfgeher, a project manager in the 319 program supervised by Trish Rielly will start February 17, 2020. Amanda earned an associate's degree in Horticulture from Meramec Community College, a B.S. degree in Soil Science and a M.S degree in Environmental Science from the University of Missouri. Amanda has been working as a laboratory technician at

the Soil Health Assessment Center with the University of Missouri. Before that she worked with the Department in the Water Protection Program developing Total Maximum Daily Load reports and implementation plans.

Two other positions are in the process of being filled. A coordinator position to be supervised by Jim Boschert will be located in the Southeast Regional Office in Poplar Bluff, replacing Leon Thompson, and an education specialist, replacing Judy Stinson, in the central office to be supervised by Bill Wilson. The Commission will have an opportunity to meet the new staff at a future meeting.

**3. Missouri Nonpoint Source Management Plan**

Ms. Trish Reilly updated the Commission on the Section 319 Missouri Nonpoint Source Management Plan (NPSMP) that guides statewide direction for addressing nonpoint source pollution. She provided background that in 1972 the Federal Water Pollution Control Act was amended creating the Clean Water Act. In 1987 the Clean Water Act was amended to address nonpoint source (NPS) pollution. Section 319 of the Clean Water Act authorizes the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to award grant to states with approved nonpoint source management programs for voluntary implementation of activities to reduce NPS impacts.

She reviewed the eight key elements needed for a Nonpoint Source Management Plan. In 2015, Senate Bill 142 amended RSMo Chapter 640 to require the NPSMP to be submitted to the Governor's Office 45 calendar days prior to submitting to EPA. The draft plan is being reviewed by Department management for submission. Multiple partners were involved in development of the plan.

Ms. Rielly showed annual allocation for 319 funding since 2015 and reviewed the guidance for eligibility for sponsors and types of projects for 319 funding. She described the Missouri 2019 Success Story for McCoy Creek in Wentzville. There were a combination of urban and agricultural strategies used to reduce dissolved oxygen and remove that water body off the state list of impaired waters.

**4. FY20 Cost-Share Update**

Mr. Bill Wilson provided a report on cost-share for Fiscal Year 2020 (FY20) as of January 24, 2020. Statewide approximately \$61.8 million is allocated, \$38.6 million obligated, with \$27.6 million obligated in Sheet and Rill/Gully being the highest. There are currently 8,343 contracts with approximately \$14.2 million contracts paid. Supplemental allocations as of January 10, 2020 went to a total of 103 counties for approximately \$28.5 million. He reviewed cost-share allocation trends for FY2017-2020.

Four soil and water conservation districts to this point have been impacted by the \$600,000 limit on supplemental allocations. Mr. Wilson asked the Commission to consider raising the maximum supplemental to \$700,000 to accommodate the

need for these districts. Commissioner Jeff Lance made a motion to increase the maximum limit to \$700,000 for supplemental allocations for FY 2020. Commissioner Kenny Lovelace seconded the motion with all in favor.

**D. NEW BUSINESS - REQUESTS**

**1. Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Supervisor Appointments**

**a. Two Requests from Atchison County SWCD**

Mr. Jim Plassmeyer reported that the Atchison County Soil and Water Conservation District is requesting to have Mr. Clay Vogler appointed to complete the unexpired term of Mr. Keith Ottmann, who resigned. Mr. Clay Vogler and the Board chairman signed the Verification of Supervisor Eligibility form, verifying the candidate meets the qualifications to serve on the board.

Commissioner Ralph Gaw made a motion to approve the appointment of Mr. Clay Vogler to complete the unexpired term of Mr. Keith Ottmann on the Atchison SWCD Board of Supervisors. Commissioner Keith Stevens seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

Mr. Jim Plassmeyer reported that the Atchison County Soil and Water Conservation District board has a second request, to have Mr. Michael Rolf appointed to complete the unexpired term of Mr. Kevin Hurst, who passed away. Mr. Michael Rolf and the board chairman signed the Verification of Supervisor Eligibility form, verifying the candidate meets the qualifications to serve on the board.

Commissioner Ralph Gaw made a motion to approve the appointment of Mr. Michael Rolf to complete the unexpired term of Mr. Kevin Hurst on the Atchison SWCD Board of Supervisors. Commissioner Jeff Lance seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

**2. Clay County SWCD Request Regarding a Maintenance Violation on two DWC-01 Water Impoundment Reservoir Practices**

Mr. Cody Tebbenkamp reported that Clay County Soil and Water Conservation District is requesting repayment of the prorated portions remaining on two practices that were removed while still under a maintenance agreement. Contract SGE 009-11-0001 for \$1,167.67 and contract SGE 009-12-0003 for \$1,956.85; a total of \$3,124.52. He provided background information that in the fall 2019, the district was informed that both practices were removed by a land developer who purchased the property; the developer was not aware there were cost-share practices under maintenance. The original landowner with the contracts passed away and there are no known heirs. The district sent a letter to the address of the deceased landowner to see if anyone would contact them, but the letter was returned.

Commissioner Ralph Gaw made a motion to refer this matter to the Attorney General's Office to determine if the total repayment amount of \$3,124.52 can be collected for the maintenance violations on contracts SGE 009-11-0001 and SGE 009-12-0003. Commissioner Jeff Lance seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

There was discussion among the Commissioners. Commissioner Gary Vandiver requested that the issue if all maintenance agreements should be recorded be referred to the committees. Colleen agreed that they would take this to the Program and Districts Operations Committee.

**3. Cape Girardeau County SWCD Request to Allow Payment of a N340 Cover Crop Practice Started Prior to Board Approval**

Mr. Jim Boschert reported that the Cape Girardeau Soil and Water Conservation District is requesting Commission approval of an N340 Cover Crop contract for a practice that was started prior to board approval. He reviewed the District Responsibilities and Cooperator Responsibilities regarding starting a practice from the Cost-Share Handbook. He also reviewed the Commission's Authority to grant variances. He provided background information that prior to October 5, 2019, the landowner was in discussion with the Cape County NRCS staff about this practice. NRCS staff indicated that there may not be sufficient time to have a board approved contract and meet the seeding date deadline of Oct. 5, 2019 for that particular seed mix. Staff informed the landowner that they needed to make a change to the seeding mix to extend the planting timeframe to November 15, 2019. Contract 012-20-0091 was printed on October 9, 2019 and was signed by the landowner on October 10, 2019. The landowner did not mention at the time of signature of the contract that the seed had been planted on October 4, 2019. The landowner brought in seed tags and receipts on November 15, 2019. District staff noticed on the receipts that the purchase and plant date was October 4, 2019. On January 8, 2020, the district sent a letter to the Program Office to request bringing the issue to the January 31, 2020 Commission Meeting. There was discussion among the Commissioners on deadlines for planting cover crops and the board's support to pay this contract.

Commissioner Keith Stevens made a motion to support the Cape Girardeau SWCD board's request by providing a variance to allow payment for contract 012-20-0091 in the amount of \$2,803.50. Commissioner Kenny Lovelace seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken:

Commissioner Lance: No; Commissioner Lovelace: Yes; Commissioner Stevens: Yes; Commissioner Gaw: No; Commissioner Vandiver: Yes. The motion passed.

**4. Gasconade County SWCD Request to Allow Payment of a DWP-03 Sod Waterway Practice Started Prior to Board Approval**

Mr. Jake Wilson reported that the Gasconade County Soil and Water Conservation District is requesting to allow payment of a DWP-03 Sod Waterway

Practice started prior to board approval of the contract. He reviewed the District Responsibilities and the Cooperator Responsibilities for starting a practice from the Cost-Share Handbook, and the Commission Authority to grant individual variances from rule. He provided background information that on December 5, 2019, the Program Office received a request to approve a berm removal contract for a DWP-03 Sod Waterway practice that was constructed in FY18. On December 13, 2019, the Program Office staff replied to the district letting them know how to proceed. January 7, 2020, the district informed their coordinator that there had been a miscommunication involving their staff, NRCS, and the landowner that resulted in the berm removal practice being started prior to board approval of the contract.

Program office staff informed the district that the contract would not be eligible for payment since it had been started prior to board approval of the contract. On January 8, 2020 the district sent a request to the Commission for permission to approve a contract for the berm removal practice that is already completed. The districts letter indicates that the board feels the operator acted in good faith and did not realize a second contract was needed to remove the berms. The contract is for a total cost-share of \$777.15. The Commission asked questions of staff for clarification.

Commissioner Ralph Gaw made a motion to support the Gasconade SWCD board's request by providing a variance to approve a contract in the amount of \$777.15 for a practice that is already completed. Commissioner Kenny Lovelace seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

Diana Mayfield, Gasconade County SWCD staff, commented that this was a miscommunication between technical staff and the landowner and the district did not do many of these practices. Commissioner Vandiver thanked her for being at the meeting.

## **E. APPEALS AND VARIANCE REQUESTS**

### **1. Ray County Landowner Appeal to a Allow Payment of an N340 Cover Crop Practice Started Prior to Caldwell SWCD Board Approval**

Mr. Jim Plassmeyer reported that a Ray County landowner (who participates with Caldwell SWCD for cost-share assistance) completed an N340 practice without having a signed contract. He provided the background information that the landowner participated in the cover crop practice last fiscal year on the same fields in question. The landowner believed once he participated in the cover crop program, he was automatically reenrolled each year. On October 27, 2019, the landowner planted cover crops in three fields. October 28, 2019, the landowner contacted the Caldwell County SWCD office to notify the office that he seeded his cover crop practice and wanted to start the reimbursement process. It was at this time the landowner said he learned that a contract must be developed each year prior to starting the practice. According to the planned design worksheet and

the seed tickets that the landowner provided, the practice met standards and specifications. Staff have been to the fields in question and there is visible stand of cereal rye growing. The cost-share amount was for 66.4 acres for a total payment of \$1,992.

Mr. Plassmeyer reviewed the District Responsibilities and the Cooperator Responsibilities for starting a practice from the Cost-Share Handbook and Commission Authority for granting individual variance from rule. There was discussion among the Commissioners to ask Program Office staff to review processes in place or develop something to remind landowners that the contract must be signed before starting a practice.

Commissioner Kenny Lovelace made a motion to maintain current policy. This would not allow the Caldwell SWCD to develop a cover crop contract for 66.4 acres for a practice started prior to board approval of the contract. The landowner can enroll these acres in the upcoming year if desired. Commissioner Jeff Lance seconded the motion. The motion passed all in favor.

**2. Three Taney County Landowner Appeals Regarding the WQ10 Stream Protection Practice Buffer Extension Policy**

Mr. Jim Plassmeyer reported that three Taney County landowners submitted letters appealing the WQ10 Stream Protection Practice exclusion eligibility requirements to qualify for the buffer extension incentive. The landowner letters requested renewal for the buffer incentive of \$500 per acre for their WQ10 contracts and stated that the exclusion area also protected springs and drainage areas, protected woodland from grazing, that they were told their contracts could be renewed after the ten-year maintenance period, and they were planning on the funds for continued maintenance of the fence and to develop water sources.

Background information was reviewed for contract numbers SN067 068-09-0028 and 068-09-0038 for Landowner A, contracts SN067 068-09-0025 and 068-09-0026 for Landowner B, and SN067 068-19-0021 for Landowner C. The WQ10 practice policies were reviewed as well as the background and timeline for Commission actions that have taken place regarding changes to the practice, and for establishment of the Buffer Extension Incentive.

Maps of the landowner contracts were viewed and discussed as to the reasons they do not meet current Buffer Extension Incentive policies. The main area where these contracts did not meet current policy was that there were more than ten acres of wooded land between the stream exclusion fence and stream. Landowner A had one area where his WQ-10 practice did meet current eligibility requirements.

Mr. Plassmeyer provided the number of contracts, acres and dollars that have been paid for the Buffer Extension Incentive statewide to date, and the total

payment amount if every WQ-10 contract was enrolled in the Buffer Extension Incentive.

The costs for the appeals are \$9,250 for Landowner A, \$21,750 for Landowner B, and \$4,350 for Landowner C. The Commission authority regarding their ability to grant individual variances by rule was reviewed. There was much discussion.

Commissioner Keith Stevens made a motion to maintain the current practice policy regarding the Buffer Extension Incentive. Commissioner Jeff Lance seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor. Maintaining policy denies the landowner appeals for payment.

## **F. PARTNER REPORTS**

### **1. NRCS**

Mr. Grover DePriest, reported that he is Acting State Conservationist for Missouri for the next few months. The job announcement for the State Conservationist closed this past Wednesday. They expect to have a lot of good applicants. He ran into JR Flores who asked him to tell the Commission and partners hello and he sends well wishes. Mr. DePriest stated that JR was very good to work for and he was one of the best of the best, and partnership was one of the main items that he stressed. Karen Brinkman, Assistant State Conservationist for Partnerships & Initiatives, will continue to keep that going smoothly.

Rules on the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) and Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) haven't come down from the NRCS Headquarters yet. CSP- GCI, (Grassland Conservation Initiative) sign up ended November 8, 2019, and applications must be obligated in contracts by today. There were 333 contracts with 12,700 acres. EWP (Emergency Watershed Protection Program) which involves flood impacts is being worked on mostly in the Northwest region. There are 120 projects approved with \$34 million available for funding. This amounts to work on drainage ditches and levee repairs. The Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) is a Farm Services Agency program and NRCS does the technical work. The EC4 Restoring Conservation Structures & Other Installations practice, works on drainage ditches and other projects with \$55 million available for disaster projects including tornado damage. Ten counties were impacted by tornados and 34 counties by flooding.

Another EWP program for floodplain easements has generated a lot of interest after the flooding in Missouri, and \$9 million was allocated in Missouri. NRCS is hoping to get more funding. Chris Hamilton is in charge of the Water Resources staff that handles this. There is a lot of interest for funding with 100 applications for \$80 million dollars.

Water Resources staff are focused on a few key reservoir projects. Mr. DePriest recently signed the ROD (Record of Decision) for the Little Otter Creek structure

near Hamilton, which flags all of the environmental concerns. This project may be starting by this fall. It has a 344-acre pool area for flood control and water consumption. The East Locust Creek project by Milan, is not quite as far along. It has a 2,350-acre pool area, and as you can imagine the mitigation for wetlands and environmental aspects are a lot greater and a bigger job. NRCS sees it going through, but will just take longer.

NRCS has 39 entry level positions in Missouri that have been advertised. About two-thirds of NRCS staff are eligible to retire in the next three years so headquarters has recognized that these positions are important to get knowledge transfer. NRCS anticipates some district staff will be applying for these positions, but as usual NRCS will help train new district staff coming in behind them if selected. He said he's excited to get these new staff started and pass on the knowledge before many existing staff retire.

He asked Karen Brinkman to give the Partnership Initiative report. She said that Kurt Boeckmann mentioned the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) renewal that NRCS offered to DNR for the project that was approved five years ago, and the Soil and Water Conservation Program is a partner on a number of other RCPP's in the state. NRCS set aside \$300 million in the Farm Bill for funding across the nation. In addition to DNR's Targeted Watershed RCPP renewal, NRCS received two more renewals that are sponsored by Department of Conservation. At the same time, there was a proposal cut off for new RCPP projects in December and these are being evaluated now and should be announced by the Chief this spring. For existing RCPP projects, they will announce sign-ups for applications for EQIP and CSP components concurrently with the general sign-up this spring.

Another opportunity NRCS has out right now is a funding for grants to sponsor workshops, outreach events, and technical assistance opportunities. The announcement is located on grants.gov. NRCS is looking to spend \$750,000 in new agreements with partners this year. A lot of districts have taken advantage of this in past to further their outreach to their customers. The Farm Service Agency has a Conservation Reserve Program sign up running through the end of February. Once applications are received and it is decided which ones will be funded, those will go back to NRCS for field visits. There is lots of excitement with this since it has been a while since there has been a CRP sign-up offered.

Lots of training is taking place at the field office level on the new conservation planning tool, Conservation Desktop, for all of the partners that will be using this tool so that there is no slow down of conservation plans written to be approved by boards, which could impact getting the cost-share approval.

The State Technical Committee and Natural Resources Subcommittee meeting will be held March 11, 2020, at the state office in Columbia. NRCS looks to

partners who attend this meeting to provide input and guidance on Farm Bill programs. Ms. Brinkman mentioned that Colleen spoke of the MOA that NRCS is updating; NRCS will be working with each district to develop an unfunded cooperative working agreement which will document the specific sharing of resources at the local level, like work space, sharing of vehicles and sharing of staff going back and forth. This will be put into place in the next few months.

**2. University of Missouri**

Dr. Robert Kallenbach reported that Governor Parson made a decree in regards to the Food Beverage and Forage Product Manufacturing Initiative and Lieutenant Governor Kehoe is assigned to that Task Force, along with a number of leaders from commodity groups. The University had a number of listening sessions over the last year to see how we can do a better job of going from a commodity producing state to a state that adds value to commodities through food processing, manufacturing and a lot more value-added kinds of work in agriculture, and be sure that those dollars circulate back through the economy in this state. The initiative is off to a good start and more sessions are planned this summer to get additional input. The Task Force is working with people who have capital to invest in those kind of manufacturers, but the effort is to also do that in ways that places those in landscapes where they can be best utilized.

The University has been working a lot with Andrea Rice, from the Fertilizer Control Board on the 4 R's Program. He mentioned that the Commission heard from Andrea at their meeting last October while at the MU Forage Research Center, which he was not able to attend. The University has been working with Andrea and the Soil Fertility Work Group to be sure that the MU soil testing recommendations fit into the 4 R's Program and how to best coordinate that effort. The meeting is not yet scheduled, but he will be meeting with Andrea and their faculty to discuss this soon.

Dr. Kallenbach mentioned that the University of Missouri is a big partner in the Midwest Cover Crops Council Conference held on February 11-12, 2020 in the Kansas City area. It is a multistate partnership to look at the best practices and cover crops. He offered to get information to those that are interested and mentioned that for those that work with this Commission and cover crops, that they would enjoy attending.

He reported that they have been to about 20 meetings in reference to the Farm Bill across the state. This Commission saw some of the drainage and subsurface irrigation at the Greenley Center this past summer. Dr. Nelson is offering a Drainage Workshop February 12 -14 in Macon. MU is very interested in getting this information out to people who can help get this practice on the ground.

**3. Department of Conservation**

Ms. Lisa Potter reported the Department of Conservation reorganization is still

ongoing, and anticipates completing by their goal of July 1, 2020. The organizational structure for the entire Department was sent out yesterday, and this should answer a lot of questions for staff throughout the state.

This year, resident landowners with 20 or more contiguous acres and non-resident landowners with 75 or more contiguous acres are now going to qualify for Landowner Permits for deer and turkey. The new part this year is that the Department is requiring that these landowners register their land and register for that permit. This new process is happening because conservation agents, each year, are finding hundreds and hundreds of violations of people misusing these landowner permits. For a landowner of 20 or more contiguous acres, if they are interested in receiving a landowner turkey or deer permit, they must register their land this year for everyone in that household to be able to hunt, and that can be done online or by mail.

There were 27,000 samples for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) taken this past season, with only found 24 new hits. This is really good and a great indication that the methods the Department is undertaking in terms of winter culling and sampling is doing the job and is keeping the prevalence of this disease low. The other positive thing is that the disease has not been found in new counties.

Feral Hogs have been in the news quite a bit. This year between MDC, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and the partnership for feral hog elimination, has started an all hands on deck approach on the feral hogs in the southern part of the state. The partnership is looking between now and the next three years to make a dent in the hog population. They have 150 staff focusing on the East Oak Ozarks Area for a three week detail by hiking, baiting and trapping hogs. This is the second week of their hunting and setting traps. They will have another round of three weeks this summer. The example of Stockton Lake shows where efforts have essentially eliminated that hog population, and are hoping to replicate that down south.

Ms. Potter answered questions from Commissioners in reference to the landowner permits, hunting feral hogs and the site of sick/dead skunks. Ms. Potter shared with everyone that the message from MDC is if you see a feral hog, please contact a conservation agent or call the Feral Hog hotline at 573-522-4115 extension 3296. That way the hogs don't scatter or become trap shy.

**4. MASWCD**

Mr. Ryan Britt, Missouri Association Soil and Water Conservation Districts, reported that he heard there was some confusion in the districts regarding AFLAC. A representative from AFLAC Company, Michelle Tucker, took time to call each district to explain the tax/pretax deductions to pay for coverage, to make sure they understand the tax ramifications, whether they have a policy with

AFLAC or not. He felt that was above and beyond for customer service by the company.

The MASWCD signed an MOU regarding the S.T.A.R. (Saving Tomorrow's Agriculture Resources) program with the Champaign County, Illinois SWCD that started the program. The theory in this program is connecting the landowners and producers of products in Missouri with processors, and organizing a method to hopefully provide a premium to anyone that produces something in a sustainable manner. The program verifies that producers are using conservation practices to produce products in a sustainable manner. The MASWCD will be appointing a steering committee and a science committee for oversight. Some of the partners present today will be asked to serve on committees. This could bring a program into our state that will provide an avenue to encourage conservation without using tax funding, and award those that are already doing a great job.

The MASWCD Legislative Educational Seminar is coming up on March 3, 2020 with visits to legislators the next day. Mr. Britt invites all of the Commissioners to attend. He will be working with program staff on some training sessions for March 3, 2020 and to get all of this finalized. The MASWCD is hoping to have members from the the Practices and the Program Delivery and District Operations Committees available for questions for district supervisors and staff that attend. They will be inviting legislators to the evening event to make sure they are aware of the Soil and Water Conservation Program.

Grover DePriest, acting State Conservationist and several members of the MASWCD board will be heading to the National Association of Conservation Districts meeting held in Las Vegas this year.

**5. Department of Agriculture**

Ken Henderson is representing Chris Chinn, Director of the Department of Agriculture. He has been with the Department close to 30 years mostly with the Grain Regulatory Program. He recently became the Grain Inspection & Warehousing Division Director and has taken on some other duties along with representing the Department on the Soil and Water Districts Commission. He thanked the Commission for the invitation to attend this meeting.

The Department of Agriculture along with the Department of Economic Development (DED) have been pushing strongly for broadband. Director Chinn did a quick survey over the last three years. Approximately three years ago, Missouri was awarded \$254 million in federal funds. In the last two weeks an additional \$41 million has been granted to the Grand River Mutual Telephone Corporation, an additional \$61 million has been split among Mid-State Services in Trenton, High Speed L.L.C. in Springfield, Gasconade Electric Coop in Mid-West, Regional Telephone Corporation in Central Missouri, Green Hills Telephone Corporation, and Marshall Municipal Utilities. Over the last three

years through the Department's work and along with DED, the state obtained \$375 million dollars in federal funds establishing programs for broadband, making a difference in Missouri.

David Baker previously touched on the Reach More Tour with the Commission. The Department is about 70 percent completed with the tour this year, but still has to meet with a few commodity groups. The Governor's Conference on

Agriculture will be held again in 2020 on November 19 – 20 at the Lake of the Ozarks. Mr. Henderson hopes the Commission and partners will attend.

He participated in the Missouri 4 R pilot program which is being rolled out by the Missouri Fertilizer Board. There are two counties that are participating in the pilot project through the Soil and Water Conservation Program with hopes of getting two more. The pilot will be a one to two year program, with this year being the first year.

He also reported that Kurt touched on the FRAWG meeting. He read an article and it was shared with Kurt, from their Deputy Director, Chris Klenklen. He reported that Iowa's Governor Reynolds is proposing a state sales tax to benefit water quality and natural resource programs. This should sound very familiar to this Commission and he believes it is being modeled after Missouri's program. It is a good thing when other states take notice and try to implement similar programs. Iowa is asking for a one-cent sales tax with 3/8 of that cent to go to the Iowa Department of Agriculture Land Stewardship to help take care of water quality issues such as what occurred in Des Moines. He has a copy of the article if anyone is interested in reading it. This is a proposal at this point, but hopefully they can get that to their legislature this year. If anyone has any questions, if he doesn't know the answer, he will try to find the answer for you. He thanked the Commission again for inviting him. Commissioner Vandiver thanked him for coming and looks forward to working with him.

#### **G. OPEN COMMENT SESSION**

Kurt Boeckmann announced that Department Director Carol Comer announced this morning that the Division of State Parks has a new Director, Mike Sutherland. The State Parks Director retired in November 2019 and Mr. Sutherland was a Deputy Director, and now promoted to State Parks Director. He thought this may be interesting since State Parks receives half of the Parks, Soils and Water sales tax.

#### **H. FUTURE MEETING DATES**

April 1, 2020

Missouri State University William H. Darr College of Agriculture  
Shealy Farm, Holos Building Conference Room  
5607 South 222<sup>nd</sup> Road  
Fair Grove, MO

**I. CLOSED SESSION**

The commission did not go into closed session.

**J. MEETING ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Ralph Gaw made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:53 p.m. and Commissioner Kenny Lovelace seconded; the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Meredith, Director  
Soil and Water Conservation Program

Approved by:

Gary Vandiver, Chairman  
Missouri Soil and Water Districts Commission

DRAFT



C.2.a.

Livingston County Soil and Water Conservation District  
USDA Service Center  
1100 Morton Parkway - Chillicothe, MO 64601  
Phone: 660-646-5687  
www.swcd.mo.gov/livingston



February 25, 2020

To whom it may concern,

Due to adverse weather in Livingston County; heavy rain and flooding in the fall of 2018 and most of all 2019, the contractors have been kept busy repairing levies and doing ECP- terrace cleanout, creating excessive contracts to be rolled over into fiscal year 21.

Livingston County would like the commission to have program staff explore options to not lose allocation from fiscal year 21, due to these rollovers.

David Morris  
Vice-Chairmen

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Morris', written in a cursive style.

**Chairman**  
STEVE RADCLIFF

**Vice-Chairman**  
DAVID MORRIS

**Secretary**  
VALERIE TATE

**Treasurer**  
JOE ROBERTS

**Board Member**  
TODD JONES

**District Specialist I**  
TARA MANN

**District Specialist I**  
EMILY BRUNNER



To whom it may concern,

Due to adverse weather in Scott County  
(County Soil & Water District); heavy rain  
and flooding in the fall of 2018 and most of all 2019, we have a larger amount of  
rollover contracts than normal.

Scott County  
(County Soil & Water District) would like the commission to have  
program staff explore options to not lose allocation funds for fiscal year 21, due  
to these rollovers.

Board Members signature:

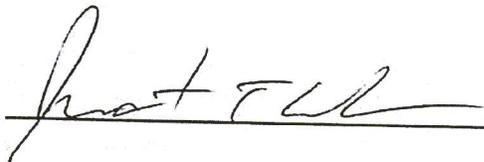
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. W. Tallent", is written over a horizontal line.

To whom it may concern,

Due to adverse weather in DAVIESS; heavy rain  
(County Soil & Water District)  
and flooding in the fall of 2018 and most of all 2019, we have a larger amount of  
rollover contracts than normal.

DAVIESS would like the commission to have  
(County Soil & Water District)  
program staff explore options to not lose allocation funds for fiscal year 21, due  
to these rollovers.

Board Members signature:



To whom it may concern,

Due to adverse weather in Pettis; heavy rain  
(County Soil & Water District)  
and flooding in the fall of 2018 and most of all 2019, we have a larger amount of  
rollover contracts than normal.

Pettis would like the commission to have  
(County Soil & Water District)  
program staff explore options to not lose allocation funds for fiscal year 21, due  
to these rollovers.

Board Members signature: Alan R. [Signature]

To whom it may concern,

Due to adverse weather in Andrew SWCO; heavy rain  
(County Soil & Water District)  
and flooding in the fall of 2018 and most of all 2019, we have a larger amount of  
rollover contracts than normal.

Andrew SWCO would like the commission to have  
(County Soil & Water District)  
program staff explore options to not lose allocation funds for fiscal year 21, due  
to these rollovers.

Board Members signature:

Ronald J. Willis

To whom it may concern,

Due to adverse weather in Lincoln  
(County Soil & Water District); heavy rain  
and flooding in the fall of 2018 and most of all 2019, we have a larger amount of  
rollover contracts than normal.

Lincoln  
(County Soil & Water District) would like the commission to have  
program staff explore options to not lose allocation funds for fiscal year 21, due  
to these rollovers.

Board Members signature:

David Burkemper  
VICE Chairman



## Master Fund Status Summary

District	Allocated	Obligated	%Obligated	# Contracts	Contract Payment	% Contract Payment	# Contract Payments	Pending
FY: 2020 Fund Code:R Project:AWM - ANIMAL WASTE MANAGEMENT	\$3,394,982.00	\$1,106,634.55	32.60%	39	\$465,905.55	13.72%	15	\$85,319.70
FY: 2020 Fund Code:R Project:BDSP-31 - BUFFER SINKHOLE IMPROVEMENT	\$24,900.00	\$1,200.00	4.82%	4	\$900.00	3.61%	3	\$0.00
FY: 2020 Fund Code:R Project:GM - GRAZING MANAGEMENT	\$9,797,888.88	\$5,791,769.77	59.11%	1252	\$2,507,565.10	25.59%	519	\$173,546.84
FY: 2020 Fund Code:R Project:IM - IRRIGATION MANAGEMENT	\$2,272,188.37	\$1,591,412.95	70.04%	204	\$631,409.05	27.79%	82	-\$21,571.92
FY: 2020 Fund Code:R Project:NP - NUTRIENT & PEST MANAGEMENT	\$1,288,017.00	\$775,245.00	60.19%	900	\$761,644.00	59.13%	881	\$2,020.00
FY: 2020 Fund Code:R Project:SA - SENSITIVE AREAS	\$5,636,530.63	\$2,235,266.83	39.66%	342	\$796,265.70	14.13%	138	\$258,967.18
FY: 2020 Fund Code:R Project:SGE - SHEET AND RILL / GULLY EROSION	\$39,004,119.98	\$29,700,094.37	76.15%	5806	\$11,333,010.78	29.06%	1503	\$871,272.67
FY: 2020 Fund Code:R Project:WE - WOODLAND EROSION	\$3,205,690.32	\$910,483.38	28.40%	263	\$363,477.19	11.34%	110	\$64,553.61
<b>Subtotal for R</b>	<b>\$64,624,317.18</b>	<b>\$42,112,106.85</b>	<b>65.16%</b>	<b>8810</b>	<b>\$16,860,177.37</b>	<b>26.09%</b>	<b>3251</b>	<b>\$1,434,108.08</b>

## Master Fund Status Summary

### Master Fund Status Summary (2020)

<b>Subtotal for R</b>	\$64,624,317.18	\$42,112,106.85	65.16%	8810	\$16,860,177.37	26.09%	3251	\$1,434,108.08
<b>Report Totals</b>	\$64,624,317.18	\$42,112,106.85	65.16%	8810	\$16,860,177.37	26.09%	3251	\$1,434,108.08

D.L.A.

## Dunklin County Soil and Water Conservation District



704 North By Pass, Kennett, MO 63857  
Phone (573) 888-2480

Department of Natural  
P.O. Box 176  
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

Dear Commissioners:

The Dunklin County SWCD Board Member, Stuart Worrell, has resigned effective 3/16/2020. Attached is his letter of resignation for your review. In response to Mr. Stuart Worrell's resignation, we would like to recommend Steve Worrell to fill the remainder of Mr. Stuart Worrell's term. We will greatly miss Stuart and the outstanding leadership he has provided us, but we feel Mr. Steve Worrell is appropriately qualified and will be a welcomed addition to the Dunklin SWCD Board. We have included the Supervisor Verification Form and wish that the Commission would approve our choice of the new board member.

Thank You

David Blakemore  
Dunklin County SWCD Board Chairman

Attachments: 2

21043 State Hwy 164  
Hornersville, Mo. 63855

Dear Sirs:

I am resigning from my position on the Dunklin County Soil and Water Conservation board effective as of this date:  
03-16-2020

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stuart Worrell". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font.

Stuart Worrell

**VERIFICATION OF SUPERVISOR ELIGIBILITY**

To qualify for office, according to Missouri's Code of State Regulations,  
10 CSR 70-2.020, Conduct of Supervisor Elections, a candidate shall:

- 1) Be a land representative as defined by "The owner, or representative authorized by power of attorney, of any farm lying within the soil and water conservation district (SWCD); provided, however, that any land representative must be a taxpayer of the county within which the SWCD is located," and
- 2) Be a resident taxpaying citizen within that SWCD for two (2) years preceding the appointment to the District Board of Supervisors by the Commission, and
- 3) Be a cooperator of the SWCD defined as "A person who is actively involved in farming and practices conservation activities related to agriculture," and
- 4) Reside in or own a farm lying in the same territory where the board position is vacant.

The undersigned certify that the candidate meets all of the above stated eligibility requirements to serve as a supervisor for the Dunklin Soil and Water Conservation District.

Chairperson (or acting) Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



Date: 3/17/2020

Candidate Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



3/18/2020



D.2.



## Ste. Genevieve County Soil & Water Conservation District

711 Pointe Basse Drive Ste. Genevieve, MO 63670  
Phone (573)883-3566 Fax (855)830-7530

January 30, 2020

Dear Commissioners,

We, the Ste. Genevieve County Board of Supervisors, are requesting cost share reconstruction for contract SGE 083-20-0083 CO1.

On January 10 and 11, 2020, Ste. Genevieve County experienced a torrential rainfall event with precipitation totals of 4 to 6 inches. Two streams in the vicinity of the failed structure experienced flash flooding due to the amount of rainfall received over a short period of time.

The landowner of the failed structure contacted the Ste. Genevieve County SWCD on January 13 about the breach through the center of the structure. This practice was newly completed on October 31, 2019 and the contract was paid on December 13, 2019.

The estimated repairs include 110 cubic yards of soil and 131 feet of 6 inch pipe. Cost share totals \$754.23. The Ste. Genevieve County Board of Supervisors requests the funds to repair the structure to prevent future erosion in the area.

Sincerely, 

Ste. Genevieve County Board of Supervisors  
Robert Eckenfels, Chairman

### Ste. Genevieve County Board Members

Robert Eckenfels— Chairman, Kenny Naeger—Vice Chairman, Janet Braun—Treasurer,

Kate Kammler—Secretary, Betty Vogt—Member

An Equal Opportunity Provider & Employer

